

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

S E C R E T LONDON 02553

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, OG, ZA

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE

REF: STATE 037690

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND EMBASSY OFFICER FEBRUARY 18 CALLED ON SIR ANTONY DUFF, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO. TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. AFTER BRIEF INITIAL EXCHANGE, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT DUFF WAS FULLY AWARE OF US CONCERNS ON ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE AND HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM IN DETAIL WITH SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT LAST WEEK.

2. DUFF SAID HE AGREED ENTIRELY WITH THE US APPRAISAL OF THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA. "WE ARE AT ONE WITH YOU" ON THE OB-
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JECTIVE, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH WE MAY DIFFER ON SOME OF THE

METHODS. (DUFF MENTIONED LATER THAT STRENGTHENING ZAMBIA'S DEFENSE CAPABILITY IS NOT LIKELY TO BE A PRIORITY FOR BRITAIN.) DUFF SAID HMG IS PRESENTLY GETTING ITS THOUGHTS IN ORDER ON AID TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA AND AGREES THAT POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES SHOULD ACT IN CONCERT. IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE MORE NATURAL TO DIRECT HMG'S ATTENTION TO ZAMBIA. UK NOW ADMINISTERS A MAJOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THERE, ALTHOUGH IT RECOGNIZES THAT ZAMBIA PRESENTLY REQUIRES BUDGETARY AID AND NOT MORE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE. FCO WILL CONTINUE TO SEE WHAT NEW AID PACKAGE CAN BE PUT TOGETHER AND WHETHER IT CAN SECURE THE REQUIRED AUTHORITY AND APPROVAL IN WHITEHALL.

3. DUFF REPORTED THAT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG FEBRUARY 17 DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR TIME TO AN UNSATISFACTORY DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF MPLA RECOGNITION. THE MATTER OF AID TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE WAS RAISED BY UK TOWARDS THE END OF THE CONFERENCE. PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED INTEREST AND WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING. AT LEAST A DISCUSSION IN THE EC HAS BEEN INITIATED, DUFF SAID, AND WHILE A CUMBERSOME PROCESS, IT IS A START.

4. DUFF MENTIONED THAT NEITHER MARK CHONA (WHO DISCUSSED RHODESIA WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS) NOR BANK OF ZAMBIA GOVERNOR KUWANI (WHO MADE NO OFFICIAL CONTACTS) RAISED THE QUESTION OF AID DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS TO LONDON.

5. DUFF PROCEEDED TO BRIEF US IN DETAIL ON HIS SIGNIFICANT MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA AND SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A CONSIDERABLY BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS REFTEL'S INSTRUCTIONS WITH DUFF HAD WE KNOWN THIS BACKGROUND. AS IT WAS, WE TOLD HIM WHAT HE ALREADY KNEW, AND HE TOLD US THE REASONS FOR OUR INSTRUCTIONS.

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